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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Food Distribution Administration

APR 9 - 1945

511-513 U. S. Court House
Phone 2-1365

Fort Worth, Texas
May 6, 1943.

Fort Worth, --(USDA)-

DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
WARTIME FOOD BULLETIN

Paul R. LeGer, Federal Food Reporter says with a few more home grown items and some from near-by East Texas coming on the local fruit and vegetable market, prices are generally coming down to about normal for the times. Of course we still have a few commodities in the high priced field which, due to scarcity, can be expected. Others are becoming quite plentiful and naturally the prices of these are declining to a point that make them good buys.

Remaining in the higher priced bracket are potatoes and the situation of these has changed very little from that of last week. In fact retail prices of potatoes in some instances are from 2 to almost 3 times that of the same period last year. Lemons advanced slightly. Head lettuce is higher than a few weeks ago, and is anything but plentiful.

The week witnessed a considerable drop in prices of bell peppers, a slight decline in green beans and strawberries. Prices of most other items remain about unchanged. A good many are a little more plentiful than a few weeks ago.

There are plenty of new Texas onions on the market, Crystal Wax and Yellow Bermudas. Tomatoes are now coming in from the lower Rio Grande Valley in sufficient quantities to indicate they should soon be cheaper. Strawberries have been coming mostly from Louisiana and East Texas but with Arkansas now starting, North Carolina helping to take care of some of the East Coast and with other areas soon starting, prices of this item might decline later on. Cabbage which has been none too plentiful for a few weeks should pick up both in quantity and in quality since Mississippi is now starting to move their crop. Mississippi is one of the leading cabbage districts for this time of the year and that state produces a very fine quality and highly flavored product. Fresh Peas are at their height and green beans will soon be ready in Mississippi.

Newcomers on the local market the first of the week were Mexican Cantaloupes at luxury prices and Texas Okra also a little high priced. It would be difficult to pick the week's "best buy" due to the fact most fresh garden vegetables are all good buys. Many bargains are available to the housewife in spite of the fact some items are out of reason.

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Food Distribution Administration

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* APR 9 - 1945 *
WARTIME FOOD BULLETIN

Fort Worth, Texas
May 13, 1943

Fort Worth, May 13--(USDA)--

A good supply of most fresh vegetables, a fair supply of fruit and not much change in the potato "population" is one way to size up the situation of the local fruit and vegetable market this week reports Paul R. LeGer, Federal Food Reporter for the U. S. Dep't. of Agriculture.

The first shipment of any large amount of fresh Pineapples arrived in Fort Worth this week and found plenty of ready "takers" at a fair price. A good many apples are still available but this will not be true in a few more weeks. Strawberries are now coming from Arkansas, both the central and the northern districts of that state and from East Texas and Louisiana. The quality has improved but prices remain about steady. Mr. LeGer warns those of you who are planning to do some canning of strawberries not to wait too long for lower prices but to get them while you have the opportunity. Although there is always the possibility of any commodity becoming lower priced as the season advances there is also the weather and the increased demand of all items to take into consideration which could prevent them from declining very much in prices. We all want to buy as low as possible but don't wait too long.

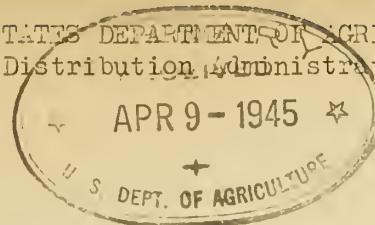
A few cars of potatoes, both old and new crop, found their way into Fort Worth the past few days but only about enough to sort of catch up the "slack" and carlot dealers are of the opinion we will not get any more carlots, very many at least, for a couple of weeks. In the mean time trucks are doing all they can to help keep the demand supplied. In trying to establish a definite market on potatoes Mr. LeGer says all he can offer is "Market Unsettled".

Squash and turnip greens advanced slightly in price while most commodities remain about steady. Roasting ears are becoming more plentiful and have dropped some in price. Good cabbage is not too plentiful. Several good buys. "Best buys" are carrots, green beans, cucumbers, various kinds of greens, squash, spinach, beets, asparagus, citrus fruits -- in fact with so many home-grown items available we now have many "best buys" and finding one is much easier than a few weeks ago.

Mr. LeGer issues this release each week in an endeavor to keep the housewife informed of what is plentiful, what is scarce, what she might expect to be lower priced and to give a general picture of the fruit and vegetable situation. He covers the markets each day and keeps an eye on shipments and prices but tells us "if you think this isn't a tough job under present conditions, just try it".

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Fort Worth, Texas
May 20, 1943

WARTIME FOOD BULLETIN

Fort Worth, May 20--(USDA)--

Perhaps the best news on the local fruit and vegetable market this week comes in the form of increased arrivals of new potatoes. Spuds are a little more plentiful and prices maybe a shade lower. There is no flood of them but there are plenty to take care of the present demand. Red Bliss Triumphs coming from the Eagle Lake-Sugarland area, a few other nearby spots and from Louisiana, a few long whites from California and an occasional car of old crop Russells from Idaho. With other new districts starting to harvest their crop the potato situation should clear up in good shape very very soon.

Plenty of fresh vegetables from South and East Texas and a good supply of locally grown commodities is keeping the bins well filled. Practically all are moderately priced and of good quality. Home grown squash is very reasonably priced and fine quality. Rio Grande Valley tomatoes are plentiful and prices have dropped accordingly. Over 225 cars moved from the Valley in one day this week. The lettuce and celery situation has changed very little. The cabbage picture is brighter with fine quality coming from East Texas and from Mississippi. Mississippi is now at the peak of their cabbage movement with estimates showing from 75 to 100 cars per day will move from there for the next 2 or 3 weeks. Prices are unchanged on fresh Pineapple. Strawberries advanced slightly in price and this week will just about see the end of Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas berries on the local market.

Plenty of good buys available and all locally produced fresh vegetables may be classed as "best buys" for this week.

This information comes to you from Paul R. LeGor, Federal Food Reporter with the Food Distribution Administration, United States Department of Agriculture.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Food Distribution Administration

Fort Worth, Texas
May 27, 1943.

WARTIME FOOD BULLETIN

Paul R. LeGer, Federal Food Reporter for the U. S. Dep't. of Agriculture in covering the markets this week finds the many different vegetables with their various colors, shapes and sizes, together with many different fruits, present a nice picture on the fresh fruit and vegetable markets this week. More especially is this true when one considers that with so many food items on the rationing list, fresh fruit and vegetables are not rationed and no points are required to purchase them.

With so many available on the markets and with Victory gardens now coming into production right now is the opportune time to start your seasons canning program, if you have not already done so. Mr. LeGer warns against waiting for lower prices but advises housewives to take advantage of all commodities she plans to can and get them while they are available, or at least play safe and get a part of your winters supply now. Mr. LeGer recommends rhubarb for canning as a substitute for fruit. In buying rhubarb choose stalks that are firm, crisp and tender. It is not necessary to wear yourself out in canning food, fill a few jars this week, some more next week and so on down the line. It will all add up to a well filled larder for use next winter and will come in mighty handy.

The potato situation is improving and "all is quiet" on that front for the time being anyway. Strawberries are no cheaper and I doubt seriously if they will be this season. They are not too plentiful and the quality is not as good as it has been in past seasons. The Fayetteville, Arkansas area are starting to move their crop of Aromas and Blakemores after being delayed by adverse weather conditions and should be on the market for several days yet although they will never over-supply the market. Fresh vegetables of nearly every description are available and good quality, mighty fine for canning. All are good buys.

Best buys can be found in the way of home grown beets, spinach, squash and carrots, all of which should find their way into thousands of cans for use next winter when fresh commodities might be harder to get and higher priced. Plenty of fresh pineapple on the market but a shade higher in some cases.

Dollar and cent ceilings will be on about 80% of our foods within the next week or two. The purpose of these ceilings, so the experts tell us, is to prevent ruinous inflation. Ceilings will help both the housewife, who does the family's food buying, and the honest merchant who tries to abide by the rules -- and most of them are honest. Keep your price list handy, help your groceryman check his prices, report whenever you have to pay more for foods than the ceiling prices permit.

